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- 1. WE HAVE RECEIVED QUERY FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF ONE OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES REGARDING ARTICLE BY WILLIAM J. LEDERER (CO-AUTHOR OF THE UGLY AMERICAN) IN 1 JUNE SATURDAY EVENING POST ENTITLED "OUR OWN WORST ENEMY." ARTICLE, AN EXTRACT FROM FORTHCOMING BOOK OF SAME NAME, IS SENSATIONAL ACCOUNT OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN SVN, BOTH US AND VIETNAMESE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE TEXT, PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.
- 2. WE ARE HANDLING RESPONSE HERE AND WILL TOUCH BASE
 QUIETLY WITH COLLEAGUES IN AID, STATE, AND DOD. AS INPUT TO
 RESPONSE, HOWEVER, REQUEST AS SOON AS CONVENIENTLY POSSIBLE,

CONTINUED

RELEASING OFFICER

SECRET

Excluded from automotic downgrading and declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

7.

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED.

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YOUR FRANK, PRIVATE COMMENTS ON GENERAL SUBSTANCE AND SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS MADE IN ARTICLE, BUTTRESSED BY AS MUCH DETAIL AS YOU CAN MUSTER WITHOUT MOUNTING MAJOR RESEARCH OR COLLECTION EFFORT.

END OF MESSAGE

